

Gator Battery Pulls Out the Big Guns

By Spc. Erik LeDrew
122nd MPAD

FALLUJAH, Iraq -- While the troopers of 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment and the Marines of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Division were on the ground in Fallujah, it was the Soldiers of A "Gator" Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division who supported them with artillery fire.

"Our mission is to provide artillery support for the units in Fallujah," said Sgt. Andre Hall, a fire section chief with Gator Battery and a Hopkinsville, Ky. native.

Their fire-missions in Fallujah varied, but the battery was equipped to handle whatever came their way.

"We use Paladin Howitzers which are capable of firing [high-explosive], illumination and smoke rounds," said Capt. Michael



Photos by Spc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

A Paladin Howitzer with Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment fires a high-explosive round on insurgents forces outside of Fallujah, Iraq.

Burgoyne, Battery A commander, 3-82 FA.

Using their Paladins, which are essentially mobile canons, Gator Battery was able to provide whatever artillery support was required. At first, such support mostly consisted of returning fire

against insurgents mortaring and attempting to mortar U.S. military bases around the city of Fallujah.

"We've been providing counter-fire against anti-Iraqi insurgents, which is a strictly responsive mission," Burgoyne, who hails from St. Charles, Mo., said. "But we also have been providing direct-fire support for the guys [engaged in combat] with the enemy."

According to Hall, when a mission comes down the pipeline, it doesn't always go through because of the possibility of civilian bystanders or friendly forces that are too close to the impact site.

"We receive our missions from the Fire Direction Center, lay down the position they give us, and wait for the call to fire," Hall said.

Although Gator Battery's job became considerably busy after the ground battle in Fallujah began, only one in every four missions was actually given the go-ahead for fire during their first few days at Camp Fallujah.

The battery arrived at Camp Fallujah in the beginning of November with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, to aid the over-taxed U.S. Marine Corps artillery units—who use standard Howitzers, not Paladins—already stationed there.

"The Marine artillery has been engaging the enemy, but they needed extra support," Burgoyne said. "So that's why our battery came with the [2nd BCT] from Baghdad."

Gator Battery was the only artillery unit from 3-82 FA that accompanied the 2nd BCT to Fallujah, leaving their old sector in southwestern Baghdad behind.

"In Baghdad, we were doing patrols and humanitarian missions," Burgoyne said. "But this mission here is the most important my unit has yet done in the 10 months we've been in Iraq. [Insurgents] cannot be allowed to strike with impunity on a people who are trying to better their own lives, and my Soldiers understand that."



An high-explosive round gets loaded into the barrel of a Paladin Howitzer as Soldiers with Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, prepare for a counter-fire mission against insurgents launching mortars on Camp Fallujah.

On Foot, The Preferred Method of Patrol

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae
Bruns
39th BCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD -- Walking in Iraq is dicey, especially if you are an American. But walking is exactly what Soldiers are doing daily in Iraq as they patrol the dubious Iraq capital looking for roadside bombs and possible enemy positions. In fact, walking is the preferred method according to Sgt. 1st Class Alan Ezelle, 36, of Springfield, Ore.

"You can hear more and see more when you are walking," Ezelle said. "When you're rolling down the road [in a Humvee] there's only one guy who can see 360 degrees and that's your gunner."

Though Humvees provide protection against improvised explosive devices (IEDs), bullets, and rocket-propelled grenades, they don't allow



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT Public Affairs

Sgt 1st Class Alan Ezelle of Springfield, Ore. and Cpl. Steve Warming of Eugene, Ore., pause to look at a mill on the other side of the wall.

Soldiers to pick up the intimate details of their surroundings. "We have a more 'hands on' approach, said Cpl. Steve

Warming, 26, of Eugene, Ore. Walking isn't easy though. There's extra weight to be carried. Soldiers wear a ballistic

vest to guard against bullets and shrapnel and they carry weapons - sometimes two or three. But Soldiers say what might have seemed a burden in the beginning just becomes another part of the body.

"You actually get used to it," Warming said. "Hardly a day goes by that you're not wearing your gear for at least four hours. It's always there."

The danger is also ever present. Walking in an unpredictable city that without notice can promptly move from passive to volatile is unnerving. And though it stays in the back of their minds, Soldiers say they can't always focus on it.

"It's a conflict of interest," Warming said. "You can't worry about it all the time or you'll end up crawling in the corner and sucking your thumb. You've still got a job to do."

Iraqis Stage Protest at 3rd Brigade Checkpoint

Sgt. Maj. Nick Araiz and Sgt. Cephas Armstrong, both of assigned to 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, watch over hundreds of peaceful demonstrators gathered outside a checkpoint to the International Zone in central Baghdad Nov. 17. The demonstrators had gathered to protest a raid on Ayatollah Mahood Al Hasany offices by multinational forces and the arrest of his followers who passed out flyers denouncing the upcoming Iraqi elections.



By Sgt. John Queen, 3rd BCT Public Affairs

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Do you understand?

hal tafham[ee]?

Friday
High: 77
Low: 60



Saturday
High: 77
Low: 58



Sunday
High: 78
Low: 59



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

A Penny for Your Thoughts?

LYNDHURST, Ohio (AP) -- A retiree turned in more than 1 million pennies at a coin-counting machine Tuesday, getting \$10,480.13 back for 3 1/2 decades of thrift. Over the years, Eugene Sukie, 78, of Barberton, a retired glass plant supervisor, rolled the pennies in wrappers and stored them in 575 cigar boxes organized by year and mint. The pennies, weighing 3 1/2 tons, were trucked from Sukie's home to a coins-to-cash machine at a suburban Cleveland supermarket.

'The Tsunami' Eats Way to 10K

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) -- Takeru "The Tsunami" Kobayashi ate 69 Krystals in eight minutes to collect \$10,000 and be crowned the first Krystal Square-Off World Hamburger Eating Champion. "I feel great," the 24-year-old from Nagano, Japan, said through a translator after Saturday's contest. "I could eat more, about 20 to 30 more." The 130-pound Kobayashi, who is also the champion of Nathan's International Hot Dog Eating Contest held on Coney Island, N.Y., beat 13 other contestants. Six Krystal Company staff members prepared more than 700 burgers for the contest, which drew hundreds of spectators to a mall parking lot. A Krystal hamburger is a square 2.5 inches on a side.



Austin American-Statesman

High waters rush over Spicewood Springs Road near the 6300 block Wednesday after heavy rains fell most of the night and into the morning in Austin, Texas.

Fog, Equipment Woes Keep Flights Grounded

KILLEEN, Texas (Killeen Daily Herald) -- Buses and limos remained the only way out of the Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport on Tuesday as weather and instrument problems led to a second full day of canceled flights.

Officials on both the military and civilian side chalked up the double-edged whammy to a rare occurrence.

The Army-maintained instrument landing system went down Sunday. At the same time, the weather began to deteriorate, and both the cloud ceiling and visibility became too low for visual flight rules.

While some planes might have been able to come in under instrument rules Sunday, the broken system caused many planes to return to their destinations and caused the cancellation of other flights.

Monday's fog was too thick even for an instrument approach, said Killeen Aviation Director Don Christian, noting that flights would have been canceled that day regardless of the instrument landing system's status.

Fort Hood Aviation Director Ron Gerner said Tuesday that a crew was con-



Killeen Daily Herald

Stranded passengers at the Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport wait for buses to shuttle them to airports in Waco, Dallas and Austin on Tuesday.

tinuing to work on the downed system. Gerner said this is the second time in 27 years that the system has gone down for longer than 12 hours.

Air Force Master Sgt. Glenn Adams, weather station operation chief for Robert Gray Army Airfield, said that although this is the time of year when there is a good chance for the foggy conditions, this lingering haze is unusual.

"We don't often see fog three or four days in a row," Adams said.

While fog is a likely to be

a more frequent weather component through the end of the year, Adams said the airfield's location does not predispose it to experience the phenomenon more often than other locations.

For Crystal Dohrmann of Granger, the lack of flights was buying her more time before she saw her husband off to Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Duane Dohrmann was trying to leave from Killeen after a two-week reprieve from the Middle East.

"I'm happy if he gets to stay here," Crystal said. "It's fine with me."

Sonics Top Nets in 'Ugly' Game

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- By the time the Seattle SuperSonics had improved the NBA's best record to 8-1, no more than 2,000 people remained in the arena.

Perhaps they were simply too stunned by the poor play to join the 10,000 folks who had the good sense to leave early.

Seattle played its worst offensive game of the season Wednesday night yet still won its

eighth in a row, defeating the New Jersey Nets 79-68 in a game with little, if any, aesthetic appeal.

"I thought it was one of the ugliest games that I've ever been a part of," Seattle's Ray Allen said. "New Jersey just made us play an ugly game. Richard (Jefferson) came up to me during the game and said, 'Man this is an ugly game,' and I was saying we were playing ugly, too. He said, 'Yeah, but we made you guys play ugly.'"

Despite starting the first half 0-for-10 and the second half 0-for-8, the Sonics scored on seven consecutive possessions down the stretch against a Nets team that had more fouls (29) than field goals (26) and committed 23 turnovers.

Rashard Lewis scored 17 points and Allen, Danny Fortson and Vladimir Radmanovic added 14 each as Seattle improved to 2-0 on a six-game, 10-day road trip.

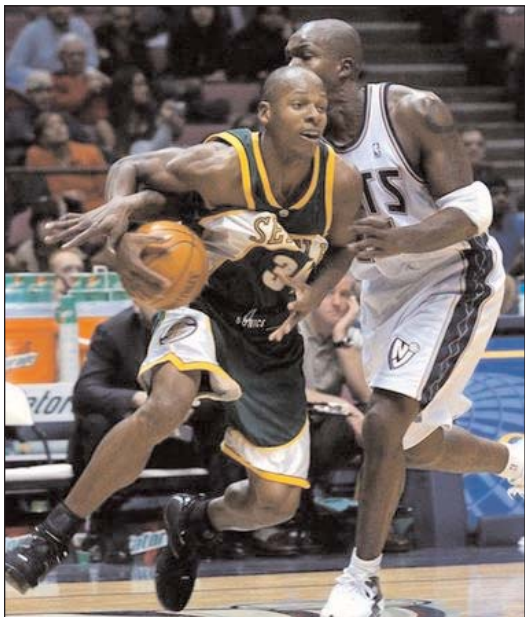
"Coming in here back-to-back against New Jersey with no Jason Kidd had letdown written all over it," Sonics coach Nate McMillan said. "It was more of a gut check tonight."

Jefferson had 20 points, and Travis Best scored all 13 of his points in the fourth quarter for the Nets as they lost their fourth in a row.

"Turnovers have pretty much been the story every game," Nets center Alonzo Mourning said. "I'm part of the story. I accounted for seven."

The Sonics also had nearly as many fouls (23) as field goals (26).

"All night we weren't in any type of rhythm offensively, but the main thing was we continued to play defense and keep the score to where we had a chance to win at the end of the ballgame," Lewis said.



AP

Seattle SuperSonics' Ray Allen, left, is fouled by New Jersey Nets' Eric Williams as he drives to the basket during the fourth quarter Wednesday in East Rutherford, N.J. The SuperSonics beat the Nets 79-68.

Lightning Receive Rings in Private Ceremony

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) -- It should have been an occasion for the Tampa Bay Lightning to bask one more time in the glow of winning the Stanley Cup.

Instead, the first-time champions received their diamond-laden rings Tuesday in a private ceremony the team received permission despite the NHL lockout threatening to wipe out the season.

"It was quiet and very low-key," Jay Preble, the team's director of public relations, said Wednesday.

Martin St. Louis, Vincent Lecavalier and Nikolai Khabibulin - who



have signed with European teams - were not among the 15 players at the St. Pete Times Forum for the presentation by Lightning president Ron Campbell, general manager Jay Feaster and coach John Tortorella.

The rings feature 138 diamonds - one for each of the 106 points the Lightning earned in the regular season and two each for 16 victories during the playoffs. The Stanley Cup is depicted in blue diamonds.

Afterward, the players walked across the street to a hotel for lunch - without coaches or team officials.

"This should have been at the Forum in front of 22,000 people as we walk up and get the rings ... and show the fans," center Tim Taylor told the St. Petersburg Times. "I personally feel the NHL has taken some of that away from us."

In Brief

Law Named '04 'Sexiest Man'

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) -- British actor Jude Law, cur-



rently starring as the irresistible cad in the remake of *Alfie*, was named this

year's "Sexiest Man Alive" by *People* magazine on Wednesday. The chiseled-featured, 31-year-old actor was the top pick of the magazine's editors to succeed their leading male sex symbol of 2003, Johnny Depp. Law appears on the cover of *People's* Nov. 19 issue, which hits newsstands Friday. "His warmth is what makes him sexy, and it radiates through his eyes," actress Nicole Kidman, his "Cold Mountain" co-star, told the magazine.

All My Children Hit 9,000 Episodes

NEW YORK (AP) -- The cast and crew of ABC's *All My Children* celebrated the taping of the daytime soap opera's 9,000th episode Wednesday - with cake. Although the history of the soap includes a prison break, ghosts, dozens of marriages and a bear attack, the anniversary celebration was low-key. The cast gathered for a group picture, each holding a sign with the number of episodes aired since they first appeared on the show. The 9,000th episode, set to air Dec. 16, deals with the ongoing baby switch saga concerning Kane's daughter, Bianca Montgomery, played by Eden Riegel, and her believed-to-be-missing baby Miranda.